

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O 172128Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7358
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 13742

EXDIS

FROM DICK MOOSE

USUN FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, US
SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF UK-US RHODESIA PLAN

1. I HAVE JUST TALKED TO DAVID OWEN AND HE HAS CON-
CLUDED THAT IT IS ALMOST CERTAINLY OUT OF THE QUESTION
FOR HIM AND ANDY YOUNG TO GO TO AFRICA BETWEEN NOW AND
THE LAGOS CONFERENCE. HE IS NOW THINKING OF A SCHEDULE
WHICH WOULD INVOLVE HIS PICKING UP ANDY IN LAGOS ON OR
ABOUT FRIDAY THE 26TH (ASSUMING ANDY REMAINS IN LAGOS
THAT LONG) AND CONTINUING TO SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR A
ROUND OF MEETINGS WHICH HE WOULD HOPE TO COMPLETE NO
LATER THAN TUESDAY, AUGUST 30.

2. OWEN WILL CALL BOTHA TONIGHT TO TELL HIM THAT HE
PROBABLY CANNOT COME SOUTH THIS WEEKEND, AS BOTHA RE-
QUESTED, BUT THAT HE WILL DO SO PRIOR TO PUBLICATION OF
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THE PROPOSAL. HE WILL TELL BOTHA THAT WE WILL BE IN-
TERESTED TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS IN HIS MEETING WITH
SMITH TOMORROW AND THAT WE HOPE SMITH WILL BE MORE
REASONABLE. HE WILL ALSO URGE BOTHA TO SUGGEST THAT
SMITH "TONE DOWN" WHAT HE HAS TO SAY ABOUT THE PLAN.
OWEN WILL PASS WORD TO ME TOMORROW ABOUT HIS CONVERSA-
TION WITH BOTHA.

3. OWEN'S CONCLUSION THAT A TRIP AT THIS TIME IS NOT PRACTICAL IS BASED ON A NUMBER OF FACTORS, INCLUDING L) THE DELAY OCCASIONED BY NYERERE'S DESIRE FOR "ASSURANCES; 2) OUR INABILITY TO GET A MESSAGE OFF TO NYERERE TODAY BECAUSE OF THE REQUIREMENT THAT THIS MESSAGE BE CLEARED BY THE PRIME MINISTER PERSONALLY; 3) THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING MEETINGS WITH THE NATIONALISTS PRIOR TO OR CONCURRENTLY WITH THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS BETWEEN NOW AND LAGOS. WITH REGARD TO THE LAST OF THESE FACTORS, NKOMO IS GOING DIRECTLY FROM HERE TO LAGOS AND THEREFORE WILL NOT BE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. OWEN BELIEVES IT WOULD BE WRONG TO SEE THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS WITHOUT SEEING ALL THE NATIONALISTS, ESPECIALLY NKOMO. 4) OWEN'S BASIC PLAN FOR A SWING THROUGH AFRICA IS AS FOLLOWS:

A) AFTER SEEING WALDHEIM IN LONDON NEXT THURSDAY OWEN WOULD FLY TO LAGOS WHERE HE AND ANDY WOULD SEE OBASANJO TOGETHER; B) WE WOULD TRY TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH THE NATIONALISTS AND THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS FOR FRIDAY OR SATURDAY; C) WE WOULD OFFER TO GO IN AND SEE SMITH IN SALISBURY OR, ALTERNATIVELY, TO ARRANGE TO SEE SMITH IN PRETORIA.(OWEN WILL SEEK BOTH'S VIEWS ON THIS WHEN HE TALKS WITH HIM TONIGHT)

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4. IN LIGHT OF OUR ALMOST CERTAIN INABILITY TO ARRANGE STOPS OTHER THAN PRETORIA (IF WE WERE TO GO SOUTH THIS WEEKEND), OWEN HAS SUGGESTED THAT WE "TONE DOWN" THE TALKING POINTS FOR THE JOINT CALL ON NYERERE SO AS TO RELIEVE SOME OF THE DELIBERATE PRESSURE WHICH WE WERE PLANNING TO PUT ON HIM TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A FRONT LINE MEETING BEFORE LAGOS.

5. WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT ANDY'S THOUGHTS ARE ABOUT HOW LONG HE WILL STAY IN LAGOS. OWEN SUGGESTS, AND I THINK THAT I CONCUR, THAT IT WOULD BE PRUDENT FOR US TO AVOID, IF WE CAN, ANY BRIEFINGS IN LAGOS ON THE JOINT PROPOSAL.

6. UNLESS ADVISED OTHERWISE, OR UNLESS SOMETHING ELSE ARISES WHICH WOULD MAKE IT ADVISABLE FOR US TO STAY HERE AND WORK WITH THE BRITISH MORE TOMORROW, PETTERSON AND I WILL RETURN TO WASHINGTON ON AN AFTERNOON FLIGHT TOMORROW -- ASSUMING SUCH EXISTS.

7. PLEASE ADVISE US ON ALL THE FOREGOING, INCLUDING ESPECIALLY POINTS IN PARA 5. STREATOR

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